

SYLLABUS

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT POLS 1000

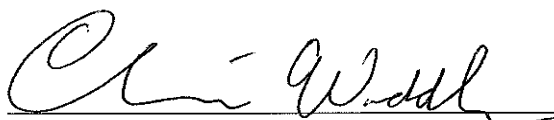
2010

Prepared by the Nebraska Community College Initiative Task Force on
Economics

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Group Leader:

4/16/2010
Date


NCCA Instructional Officer Chair

5/16/10
Date

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION

POLS1000

American Government

Prerequisite: None

A study of the functioning of the political system through an analysis and application of its underlying theories.

4.5 quarter credit hours

3.0 semester credit hours

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES/COMPETENCIES

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Explain the key values and concepts including power, democracy, ideology and political change.
2. Describe the origins and operations of the Constitution and federalism.
3. Describe and analyze the three branches of the federal government and their interrelationships.
4. Discuss the role of civil rights and civil liberties in American politics.
5. Analyze the decision-making process, governmental operations, as well as the role of bureaucracy – including domestic and/or foreign policy.
6. Discuss various forms of political activity including: campaigns, elections, political parties and interest groups.
7. Analyze the sources and impact of public opinion, including the role of the media.

III. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

- A. Required Text(s) – Select one or more of the following:
1. Democracy Under Pressure
Cummings/Wise (Harcourt Brace)
 2. The Challenge of Democracy
Janda/Berry/Goldman (Houghton-Mifflin)
 3. American Government & Politics Today
Bardes/Shelley/Schmidt (West)
 4. American Government
Gitelson/Dudley/Dubnick (Houghton-Mifflin)
 5. American Government
O'Connor
 6. American Government, Politics & Political Culture
Lyon/Scheb/Richardson/Lilliard
 7. American Government
Wilson/DiIulio (Houghton/Mifflin)
 8. Understanding American Government
Welch/Gruhl/Comer/Rigdon (Thomson Wadsworth)
 9. Government in America
Edwards

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Foundations of American Government
- B. Institutions of American Government
- C. Public Policy Making
- B. Political Participation

V. SPECIFIC COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. In order to receive a passing grade in the course, students must complete the work assigned by the instructor in a satisfactory manner and within time frames allowed.
- b. Regular attendance, reading, examinations, writing assignments, discussion and respectful behavior are all required course components.

VI. METHOD OF PRESENTATION

Instructors should make use of varied pedagogical techniques, including several of the following: lectures, small and large discussion groups, collaborative projects, research, essays, computer-assisted instruction, multi-media and field trips.

VII. METHODS OF EVALUATION

Course grades, at the determination of the instructor, will be based on class and group presentation, daily work, exams, presentations, projects, papers, and/or a portfolio. Instructor will distribute and discuss evaluation and her/his grading policies with students at the beginning of each term.